

02/03/2022

Case # 2022-11421

Comazel and Monica Caldwell  
623 Hercules Trail  
Madison, WI 53718

### Dangerous Animal Determination

Mr. and Mrs. Caldwell,

It is the duty of Public Health Madison and Dane County to ensure public safety. We investigate incidents involving animals that cause injury to humans or other animals, or act in a way that would cause a reasonable person to be concerned for their safety. If the incident is serious or ongoing, we may declare the animal dangerous, per Madison General Ordinance 25.22 (**Dangerous Animals Regulated.**) When an animal is declared dangerous, restrictions are imposed on the owner for keeping the animal, or the animal may be ordered to be humanely euthanized.

**On 12/2/21, your mostly white, Border Collie Mix, Petra, attacked another dog at the North Star Dog Park when the other dog got close to Petra's ball. The victim dog's owner was bitten by Petra while trying to separate the dogs. The victim suffered multiple wounds and received medical attention.**

**On 6/15/21, Petra was at the Capital Springs Dog Park when she snapped at another person's dog then bit a woman on the leg. The victim's skin was broken and Petra was quarantined. You were sent a Dangerous Animal Warning after this incident.**

**On 2/21/21, Petra was at the Demetral Field Dog Park when she reportedly immediately attacked another dog upon entry. The other dog was injured and received medical treatment.**

**On 9/29/20, Petra bit a woman on the leg at Sycamore Dog Park when the victim was trying to keep Petra away from another dog. The bite broke the victim's skin and Petra was quarantined.**

We have conducted a dangerous animal investigation and are declaring **Petra** to be a dangerous animal pursuant to Madison General Ordinance Section 25.22(5). We are basing this decision on:

- Four separate incidents in dog parks involving Petra fighting with other dogs, three of which resulted in Petra biting people.

As outlined in the ordinance “any animal declared by the Department to be a dangerous animal shall be humanely destroyed or placed under restrictions as set forth in Department policies.” **At this time we are declaring Petra to be a Dangerous Animal and are ordering that she be placed under restrictions as a result of this Dangerous Animal Declaration.**

### Restrictions

Any owner of an animal that has been declared dangerous pursuant to this section and placed under restrictions must comply with the following subdivisions. The owner must provide documentation to the Department of compliance with these subdivisions. Said documentation must be provided within thirty (30) days of the animal being declared dangerous.

- 1) The owner must provide written proof from a licensed veterinarian that a microchip has been placed in the animal so that the animal can be easily identified. The microchip must contain the following information:
  - a) The name of the animal
  - b) The name of the owner, and
  - c) The following language “Dangerous Animal, contact Animal Services for Madison and Dane County at 608-255-2345”.
- 2) The animal must be in compliance with all license requirements.
- 3) When outside of your residence, Petra must be leashed at all times. The leash shall be attached to a secure collar or harness that is of sufficient strength to restrain the animal. The leash shall be no longer than four (4) feet in length and must be secured by and under the direct control and supervision of a competent adult.
- 4) Petra is not allowed to visit any of the Madison or Dane County off leash dog parks.
- 5) Prior to a dangerous animal being sold or given away, the current owner must provide the name, address and telephone number of the proposed new owner to the Department. Prior to taking physical custody of the dangerous animal, the new owner must comply with all requirements of this subsection and any other restriction the Department determines to be appropriate to ensure the public’s safety.
- 6) Prior to moving to a new residence, the owner must notify PHMDC of the move and allow inspection of the property, which may result in changes or additional restrictions relating to the home and/or yard.

### NOTICE OF APPEAL RIGHTS

Pursuant to Madison General Ordinance 25.22(10), "Committee Review of Determination", and Chapter 47.18(11) of the Dane County Code of Ordinances "Administrative Review" you may appeal this decision to a subcommittee of the Board of Health for Madison and Dane County. You must file your appeal in writing and it must be postmarked (or hand-delivered) within 7 days of the date the Department's Determination was mailed to you. Your request for an appeal must state the grounds upon which you believe the Department's Determination should be reversed or amended. Please mail (or hand-deliver) your appeal request to the Director of Public Health at the address provided below.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Janel Heinrich".

Janel Heinrich, MPH, MA  
Director of Public Health  
210 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd Room 507  
Madison, WI 53703